

page. In discussing a three-tiered system for developing "comprehensive qualifications—or standards" for jobs and clusters of jobs, Mr. Tucker reached Title 1:

"This would be," he wrote, "a set of standards for what everyone in the society ought to know and be able to do to be successful at work, as a citizen, and as a family member."

Now, ponder the breathtaking absolutism behind such a vision: Not only should Big Government issue, in effect, work permits, and not only should it monitor each person's civic participation; it should go so far as to pass judgment on how every American functions as a mother, father, brother, sister or other member of a family—however the technocrats chose to define "family."

That sounds far-fetched—until one looks at Senate Bill 321 recently introduced in Oregon—one of the model states for the womb-to-tomb seamless web. That legislation would require every taxpayer with a dependent between the ages of 1 and 2 to attend state-directed "parent education courses" in order to claim a personal exemption on state taxes. The state also would set up a new system to certify parent-education providers. It is true that the agency Mr. Tucker envisioned as the promulgator of Tier I standards—the National Education Standards and Improvement Council—fell prey to Congress' partial dismantling of Goals 2000 last spring. However, there are many more new bureaucracies—the Skill Standards panel, for one—that can continue spinning the web.

Other presentations showed how schools are becoming instruments of nationalized health care through creative Medicaid re-interpretation; how databases are being set up to check each American's advances through the seamless web; how the School-to-Work system will function to steer students in directions that satisfy economic planners' objectives, not necessarily their own.

It is important to document how all this is meshing, as the conferees attempted to do. For example, Ohio's STW plan flatly declares as a goal the training of student for jobs in accordance with "the state's work force development and economic development strategies."

But as chilling as such words are, most people probably will not become gravely concerned until they see the seamless web infringing on their own family's liberties. That may be happening in Nevada, where Gov. Bob Miller, current chairman of the National Governors Association, brags about a "Smart Card" that students will have to present when applying for a job in order to show they have the work-force competencies Big Brother says they should have.

Out in Las Vegas, Rene Tucker tells me that her daughter, Darcy, recently was pulled out of a geography class—without parental consent—to be administered a computerized assessment of career possibilities. Darcy wants to become a veterinarian. But the computer said she ought to become a bartender or a waitress, and it spat out a list of courses she ought to take in high school toward that end.

Mrs. Tucker was furious first that the career counselors had robbed her daughter's valuable class time. She added: "We're Christians, and the school stepped on my ties as a parent. It is my job to direct my child's career path, and it would not be in her best interest to be a bartender."

Ah, but it might be in Nevada's best interest, you see, given the huge hospitality needs

driven by the gambling and entertainment industry.

Another Nevada mom, Kristine Jensen, and her daughter Ashley had a similar experience. Ashley has a 4.0-plus GPA and currently aspires to work at NASA. Indeed, a NASA official told her, "Set your goals high and set your heart and mind to it and you will be there."

However, said Mrs. Jensen, the STW career inventory said Ashley ought to set her goals quite a bit lower as she enters the ninth grade. "Garbage woman" was a career pathway the computer said this honors student should follow.

The School to Work Opportunities Act of 1994 states that career counseling is to begin "at the earliest possible age, but not later than the seventh grade." That's a federal requirement, mind you, for schools spending STW money. As such fine print becomes a killer of dreams, the uprising against this seamless web figures to grow.

PAPERWORK ELIMINATION ACT

HON. JAMES M. TALENT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 26, 1997

Mr. TALENT. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Paperwork Elimination Act. The purpose of this legislation is to advance the use of alternative information technologies and, in so doing, decrease paperwork demands by the Federal Government. The intended beneficiaries of this legislation are small businesses, educational and nonprofit institutions, Federal contractors, State and local governments, and others who face a disproportionate burden in complying with Federal regulations. Alternative technologies suggested include electronic maintenance, submission, or disclosure of information. In achieving this purpose, the Paperwork Elimination Act hopes to assist Federal agencies complying with the purposes and goals of the Paperwork Reduction Act.

The Paperwork Elimination Act does not intend to replace any part of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, which has made great strides toward reducing regulatory burdens. The Paperwork Elimination Act is merely a supplement to the Paperwork Reduction Act, introduced with the intent of belatedly bringing the Federal Government into the computer revolution. It clarifies provisions within the law requiring agencies to utilize information technology by specifying that those with access to computers and modems should be able to use them when dealing with the Federal Government.

I would like to take a moment to thank our former colleague, Peter Torkildsen of Massachusetts. Mr. Torkildsen introduced this legislation in the 104th Congress and worked tirelessly to see its passage. In April 1996, the legislation passed the House unanimously. The measure was then discharged from the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee and sent to the desk for action. It is unfortunate that the Senate ran out of time before acting

on this measure. I believe this is an important piece of legislation for small business. I am hopeful that my colleagues will concur and that this bill will receive favorable congressional action at an early date. Thank you.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE AWARD WINNING ACHIEVEMENTS OF WORKING CAPITAL FLORIDA

HON. CARRIE P. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 26, 1997

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, access to credit, technical help, and training are the keys to unleashing the economic potential of all Americans, particularly for the poor in our cities and distressed rural areas. In recognition of its outstanding community-based leadership with microenterprise projects, Working Capital was recently awarded the Presidential Award for Innovation in Microcredit in a ceremony at the Oval Office on January 31, 1997.

In Dade County, Working Capital Florida is leading the way to economic empowerment by providing business loans, peer support, training, networking and technical assistance to persons with low to moderate income. Working Capital Florida is one of seven hubs of the Working Capital Corp. which was founded in 1990 in Athol, MA, by Jeffrey Ashe to foster self-reliance and enhance the quality of life for persons with limited access to resources. This is accomplished through a network of community-based organizations.

Working Capital Florida serves Dade's African-American, Hispanic, and Haitian communities in neighborhoods including Allapattah, Carol City, Coconut Grove, Florida City, Goulds, Homestead, Kendall, Little Haiti, Little Havana, Naranja, North Miami, Opa-Locka, Overtown, Perrine, Princeton, Richmond Heights, and South Miami Heights.

Within the next 5 years, Working Capital Florida has the potential to create 5,000 new businesses among low-income residents. Since its inception, 311 loans ranging in size from \$500 to \$5,000 and totaling \$210,500 have been disbursed to start-up businesses throughout Dade County. Working Capital Florida helps low- and moderate-income citizens of Dade County to enter the economic mainstream. As they prosper, we reduce the social costs of poverty in Florida and the Nation while increasing national productivity. Not only are these efforts beneficial to the poor, but they clearly improve our community and benefit all Americans.

The individuals who are assisted by Working Capital Florida through micro-loans, peer-support, networking, and training can stand proudly to proclaim "I have a dream * * * and I'm beginning to live it!" I know my colleagues join me and the entire Dade County community in applauding their success. Congratulations Working Capital Florida on a job well done.